



Public Notice

April 8, 2008

Russian River Rubber Dam to be inflated



The Sonoma County Water Agency on Thursday, April 10, 2008, will begin raising its inflatable rubber dam on the Russian River. The dam will be fully inflated by Monday, April 14, 2008.

About the inflatable dam

The inflatable dam is located just down stream of the Wohler Bridge on the Russian River. The dam is normally raised in the spring when potable water demand increases. The raised water level immediately behind the dam is drawn into off-stream infiltration ponds. This dam also enhances Agency well levels in the area. Permanent fish ladders provide fish passage when the dam is raised.

Impact to fishing/boating/recreational interests

The dam will be fully inflated to an elevation of thirty-eight feet. Raising the dam means steelhead fishermen will not be able to run drift boats past the inflatable dam. Fishermen and boaters will instead have to portage their boats around the dam or use the public fishing access on the west side of Wohler Bridge. California Department of Fish and Game regulations prohibit fishing within 250 feet of the upstream and downstream side of the dam. No other recreational impacts are expected.

Why the dam is being raised

Raising the dam will increase the Agency's ability to meet the water supply demand of its water transmission system customers. The dam will remain inflated until the Russian River flow reaches 1,000 cubic feet per second. The Russian River flow is currently approximately 500 cfs.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the inflatable dam, please contact Public Information Officer Brad Sherwood at 707.547.1927 or visit www.sonomacountywater.org.

The Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.